

West Valley City and Taylorsville Animal Services Euthanasia Guidelines and Facts



West Valley City Animal Services

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West Valley City Animal Services

West Valley City Animal Services Contact Information

West Valley City Animal Services is a division of the West Valley City Community Preservation Department. While there are many committed volunteers who work with West Valley City Animal Services, they are not official representatives of the shelter, of West Valley City Animal Services or of West Valley City. Additionally, there are a number of online resources, run by volunteers, which assist with disseminating information and increasing adoptions from the shelter. Unless noted here, these resources are not official sources of information and should not be regarded as such.

Approved West Valley City Animal Services Representatives

Wayne T. Pyle, West Valley City Manager (801) 963-3220
Layne Morris, Community Preservation Director (801) 963-3420
Kelly Davis, Animal Services Operations Director (801) 963-3364
Aaron Crim, Director of Public Relations (801) 963-3466

Official West Valley City Animal Services Online Resources

<http://www.wvc-ut.gov/animal>
<http://www.facebook.com/WVCAnimalServices>

West Valley City Animal Services

West Valley City Animal Services History

In September 2009, after years of serving the animals of West Valley City in an overcrowded and outdated shelter, West Valley City's Community Preservation Department opened a 22,560 square foot facility to serve the animals of West Valley City and Taylorsville. In addition to Community Preservation and Animal Services offices, the facility houses a 15,600 square foot state-of-the-art animal shelter.

Amenities in the new shelter include radiant floor heating in all animal areas, large outdoor exercise areas, two large community cat rooms and two get-to-know-you rooms. New kennels measure a generous three feet by six feet, which, depending on capacity, can be expanded to three feet by twelve feet, instead of the two foot by four foot kennels in the old shelter. Lighting is primarily natural, supplied by large skylights.

Additional features, designed to reduce disease transmittal and permit ease of maintenance, include separate HVAC systems for sick dogs and sick cats, an in-kennel self contained high pressure drainage system and animal areas constructed of non-porous surfaces such as stainless steel, high density plastics and epoxy-covered concrete.

At the time of relocation, the former animal shelter was more than 30 years old and was the oldest shelter operating in the state of Utah; at 4,200 square feet, it was also one of the smallest and most crowded. The new facility more than triples the capacity of the former animal shelter, and is designed to provide room for expansion and addition when needed.

West Valley City Animal Services

Recent attention toward the West Valley City Animal Shelter has resulted in increased scrutiny by residents and animal lovers. West Valley City Animal Services welcomes all questions and inquiries, and looks forward to any opportunity to educate the public on the importance of responsible pet ownership.

However, there are many misconceptions and much misinformation about the West Valley City Animal Shelter. A recent presentation to the West Valley City Council included the following letter and exhibits; a memorandum from Community Preservation Director Layne Morris follows, responding to each exhibit.

Mayor Winder & City Council,

My name is Janita Coombs and I am the individual who had the opportunity to foster the cat Andrea when she was found alive in the shelter's cooler. When I received the call and request to rescue Andrea, one of my first thoughts were, "How many others have there been?" I filed a GRAMA request in hopes of obtaining an answer to that question. After filling my request I was disappointed to discover the shelter had not been documenting how many times a gas cycle was run or how long it takes to complete the cycle. That information would have been very valuable to all individuals involved, including the Council. However, I was provided through my request employee notes and emails indicating the gas chamber has been malfunctioning on its first attempt as far back as February 2010.

- February 25, 2010. A shelter employee sent an email stating five cats had been placed in the chamber. After the first cycle it was discovered three of the five did not die. The employee used sodium pentobarbital to put them down. Exhibit 1
- March 1, 2010 there are employee notes indicating the chamber was not completing the cycle and all problems needed to be reported to Mr. Davis. Exhibit 2
- July 7, 2011 there is an employee note indicating a "possible chamber issue, do not use." Exhibit 3
- August 8, 2011 an employee ran the chamber and after the first cycle the animals were still alive. The second cycle worked. Exhibit 4
- August 9, 2011 the email states the first cycle did not work. It does not say if the animals were gassed a second time or put down via injection. Exhibit 4
- August 10, 2011 yet again, the first cycle did not work. It does not specify if the animals were killed on a second cycle or euthanized via injection. Exhibit 4
- August 15, 2011, an employee ran the cycle twice with "zero effect." It does not indicate if the animals were killed via gas on the third try or if they were finally euthanized with sodium pentobarbital. Exhibit 4
- October 13, 2011 the cat Andrea was found alive in the shelter's cooler after having been put through two cycles of the gas chamber. Exhibit 5
- October 27, 2011 two large dogs by the names of Dreamer and Diesel survived the first gassing, and were gassed again. They did not survive the second cycle. Exhibit 6

Although I have heard of many other cases, I have only presented those that have been documented or that I have been able to verify. I do not know exactly how many others in addition to these cases have survived the gas chamber at West Valley City due to lack of documentation. But it is very clear, Andrea, is not the only one and there is an ongoing problem.

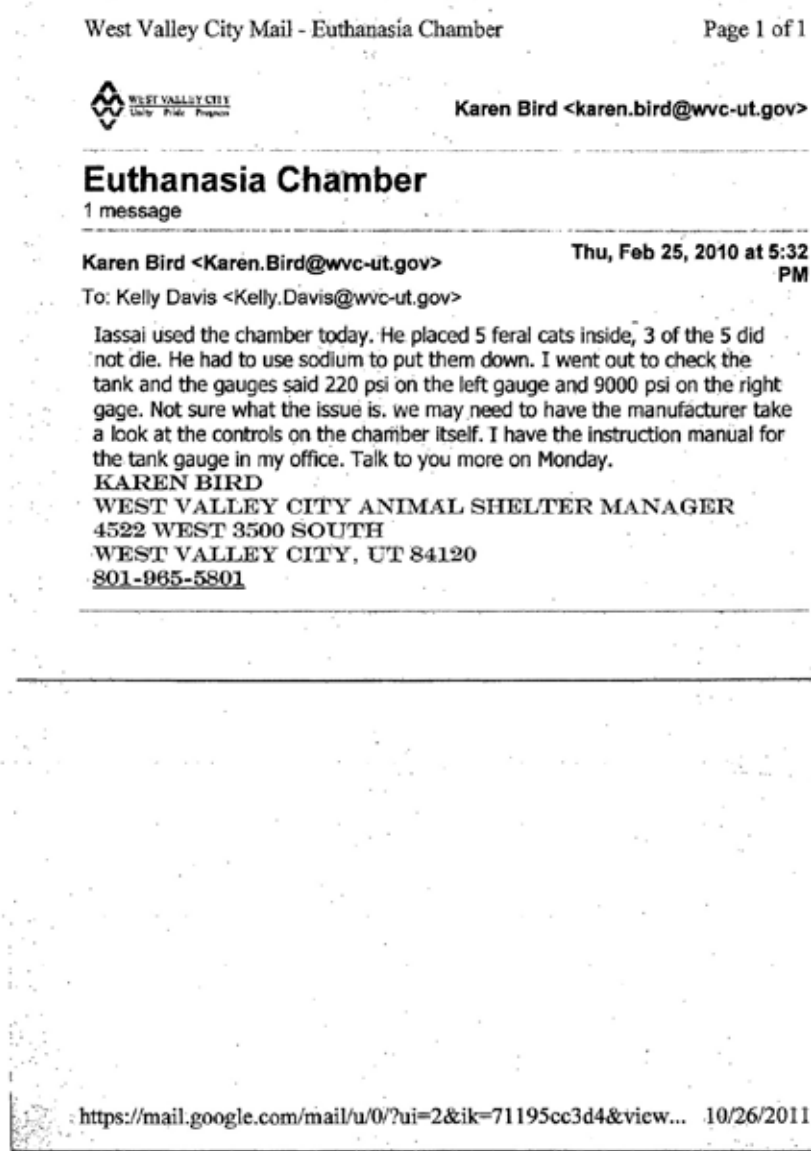
The examples I gave tonight contradict statements publicly given, on numerous occasions, by City spokesperson Aaron Crim, who was quoted in reference to the case of Andrea as stating, "We've never had an instance like this since we started using this method." And, "This is an anomaly." Exhibit 7 Then again, last Tuesday night, I was

surprised to read that a shelter spokesperson was quoted as saying, "Andrea did survive the gassing, but no other cats survived euthanasia by gas chamber." Exhibit 8

Eighteen states thus far have banned the use of the gas chamber. Louisiana will be number 19 when its ban goes into effect January 2013. An additional three states voluntarily choose not to use the chamber without the need for legislation. Although there may have been a time when the use of a gas chamber was considered an acceptable method of euthanasia, that time has gone. We have progressed. On a local, state and national level, the gas chamber controversy is continuing to gain momentum and is not going to go away. Please, voluntarily discontinue the use of the gas chamber at West Valley City. Allow us to stop debating on the best way to kill animals, and focus on time, energy and attention on working in collaboration on the best way to save animals.

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 1



Response*

The shelter opened in October 2009. This was one of the very early uses of the chamber (Feb 25, 2010). The two feral cats that did not expire were at least incapacitated (probably unconscious) to the point that they were unable to respond as a typical feral cat would; with a high level of aggressive behavior. The employee makes no mention of any animal suffering in any way. She simply states that she will discuss the situation with her supervisor further on Monday, when she returns to work.

*The complete memorandum can be found on page 17.

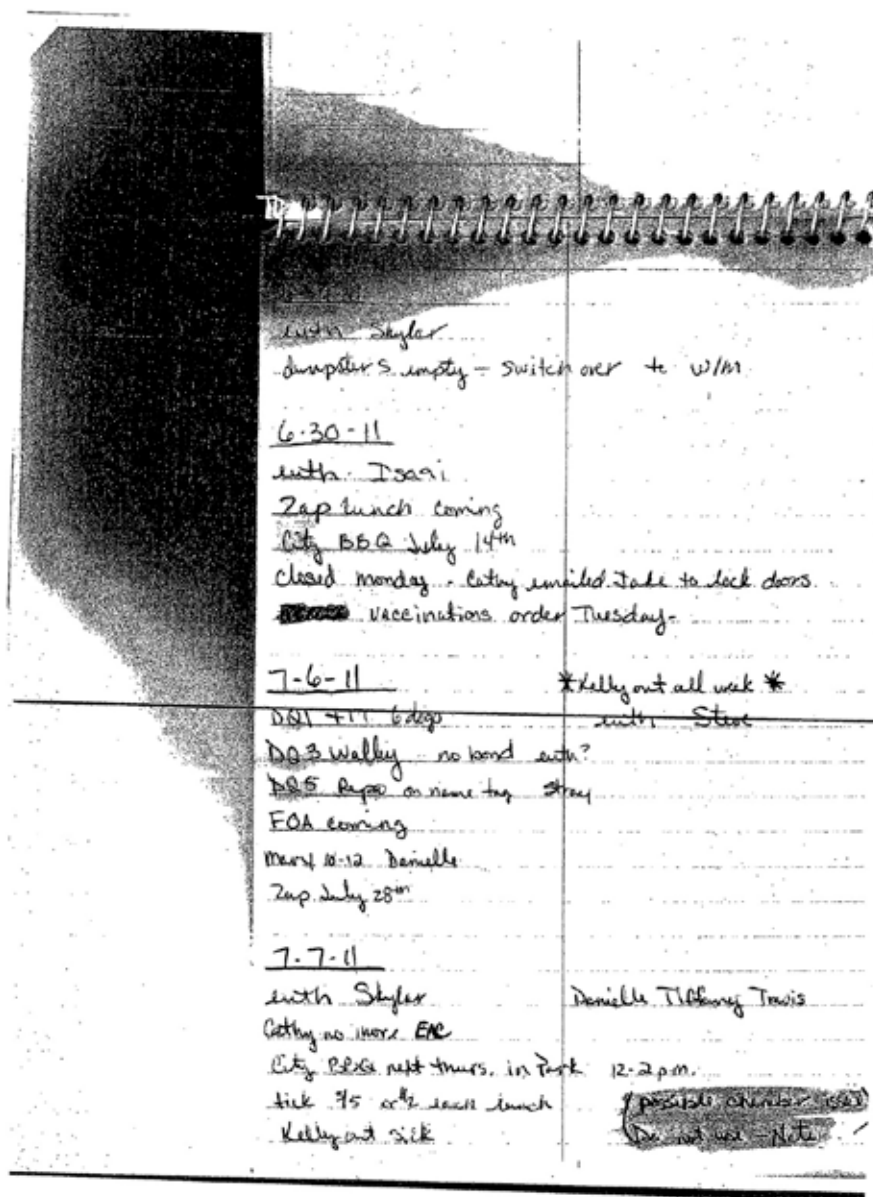
West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 2 (Part 1 of 2)

2-26-10	
Jessa Furlong's day	
with	
cat receive in isolation	
3-1-10	
with? speaker	
WES - Sandra Furlong	
with chamber issue - supervisor must be present	
Tosai	
no pay owner message	
F34	F28 to front
F35	DQ2 to front - and
F25	cis05
F24	cis02
	cis04
	cis02

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 3



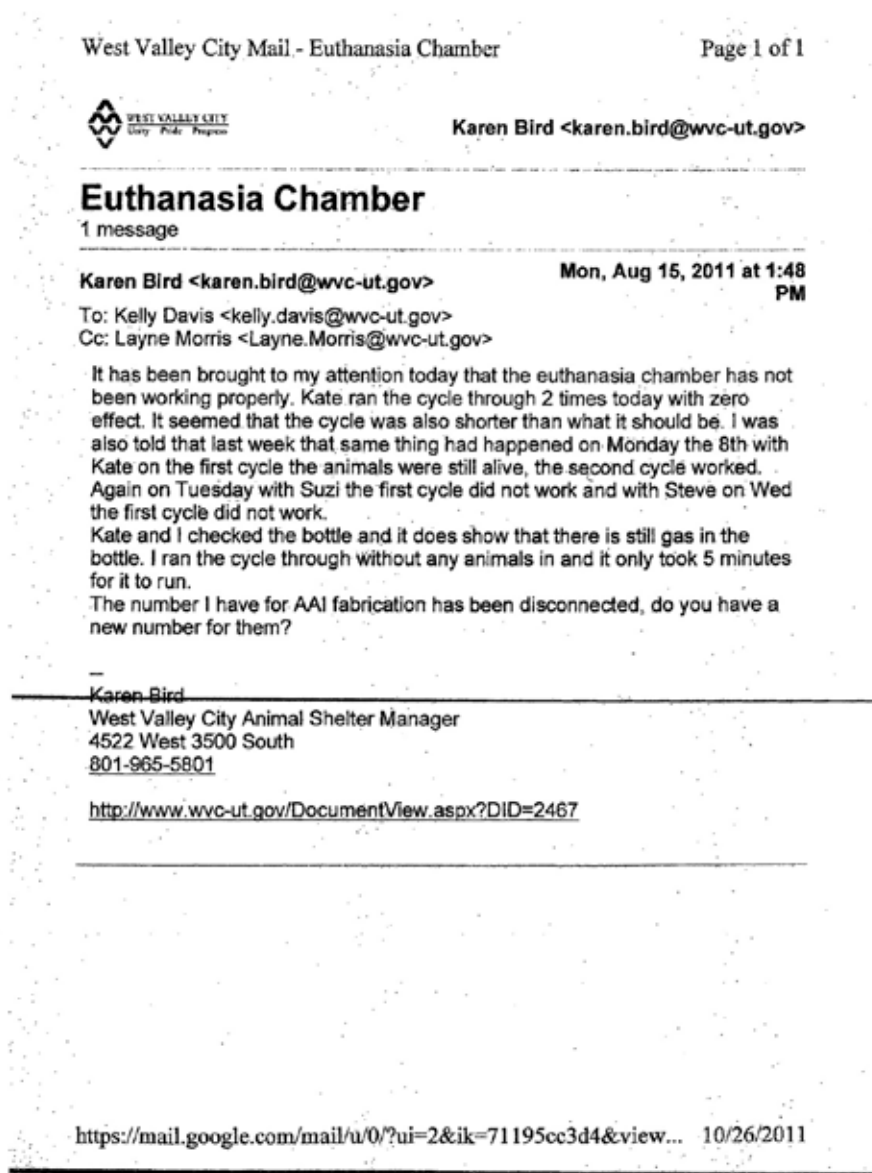
Response*

In staff meeting on July 7, 2011, over one year later with no issues or incidents, an employee stated that she could not get the chamber to function at all. As a result of her comment, supervisors instructed all employees not to use the chamber without a supervisor present. Subsequently, always with supervisors present, the chamber worked perfectly. Supervisors concluded that the problem was employee training on chamber function, which they had resolved with training. This might actually be the first indication of the problem outlined in Exhibit 4.

*The complete memorandum can be found on page 17.

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 4



Response*

This memo outlines various times over several weeks where the chamber had “zero effect.” The manufacturer was consulted, and after listening to a description of the problem, quickly diagnosed the problem: employees had not completely shut the door. When the chamber computer runs through the function and safety checks prior to starting, an open door will cause the system to shut down without actually starting the operating cycle; thus the “zero effect.” The chamber did not malfunction, the employees simply failed to complete all the steps necessary to enable the chamber to function at all. Employees were instructed on how to secure the door fully.

*The complete memorandum can be found on page 17.

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 5 (Part 1 of 2)



WEST VALLEY CITY
Unity • Pride • Progress

TO: Kelly Davis, Nathan Beckstead
CC: Layne Morris
FROM: Russ Cramer
DATE: 10-13-11 (Thursday)
SUBJECT: Euthanasia Incident

Kelly and Nate,

I was responsible for euthanasia Thursday 10-13-11. I believe I had 5 or 6 cats to put down that day. I believe I started around 1230 to 1300 hours. I placed all of the cats into the chamber. I closed the door and made sure it was locked. I pushed the start cycle button as I have always done. The cycle started as normal and the gas entered into the chamber. It did not sound like the normal amount of gas was going into the chamber as I have heard in the past. The cycle completed as normal and I took the black cage out of the chamber. All of the cats were deceased except for one. I checked all of the other cats – their eyes were completely dilated and had no heartbeat. They were placed in a bag and set inside the cooler.

I put the cat back into the chamber for the 2nd time since it was still alive. I did not observe any vomit on it or any feces or urine inside the feral container. I closed the door and started the cycle again as normal. The 2nd cycle also sounded like there was not the normal amount of gas coming into the chamber. It ran through the cycle and I opened the door. I took the cat out and I observed it to be deceased. I took the cat out of the feral container and laid it on the examination table on its left side. Its eyes were completely dilated. I touched both eyes and they did not blink and there was no movement whatsoever. I also felt for a heartbeat and was unable to feel one. I did not use a stethoscope to verify the heartbeat though. The cat did have a thick coat. The cat showed no appearance of being alive, even after being taken out of the feral container – it was very limp. I also pinched and pulled at its feet to test for any sensation or resistance,

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 5 (Part 2 of 2)

which there was none. I then placed the cat in a black bag and put it in the cooler as normal. I then went and found Officer Beckstead and told him about the chamber and we went around to the East side of the shelter and changed out the cylinder tanks – the one it was hooked up to read empty.

Approximately 30-45 minutes later, Officer Beckstead asked me to return to the euthanasia room. When I did, I observed both Nathan and Karen there with the last cat that I had to put through the chamber twice. The cat was alive and looked healthy. Karen stated that she heard a cat meowing inside a bag in the cooler, opened it up, and found the cat alive. I explained to both of them what had happened and what I had done. Karen stated that she did not blame me for this incident, but wanted to report this to Layne Morris. I later called and spoke with Layne about this incident. Officer Beckstead requested I type up a report of the incident.

Russell K. Gamm
10-18-11

Response*

This memo is written by the officer who conducted the Andrea euthanasia operation. Our conclusion is that there are two different possible scenarios, or a combination of both. The most likely scenario is that Andrea was able to absorb much more CO than the other cats involved. The other possibility is that when the carbon monoxide tank runs extremely low, it does not contain enough pressure to deliver the gas in large enough quantity to reliably cause death to an animal with an extremely high “tolerance” for carbon monoxide. We have addressed both issues with changes to policy. First, animals that fail to succumb to CO euthanasia will be injected. Second, the gas tank will be changed out when it reaches 100PSI.

*The complete memorandum can be found on page 17.

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 6

The following instance on October 27th was not discovered through my GRAMA request. However, the Council can easily confirm with the euthanizing employee or any other employee on duty given the following details:

October 27, 2011

Names: Dreamer & Diesel

Animal ID's: A033716 & A033717

Officer Steve Hulse was euthanizing employee. Nathan Beckstead, Karen Bird and Kelly Davis were all made aware of the malfunction.

Response*

There was no malfunction in the euthanasia of these two dogs. Dreamer and Diesel were Chesterfield pit bulls who escaped their enclosures and roamed the neighborhood until they found another dog also running free, which they killed. Our officers responded, seized the animals, and the owners quickly relinquished ownership. The officer who conducted the euthanasia remembers these two extremely vicious dogs very well, as well as the euthanasia. He states that although handling the dogs was extremely difficult due to their size and ferocity, each dog, once in the chamber, went down smoothly and quickly.

*The complete memorandum can be found on page 17.

Exhibit 7 (Part 1 of 2)

10/12 EXCLUSIVE: Cat survives euthanasia and being placed in a freezer - KSTU

fox13now.com/news/local/kstu-cat-survives-euthanasia-exclusive-cat-survives-euthanasia-and-being-placed-in-a-freezer-20111014,0,6588360.story

KSTU

EXCLUSIVE: Cat survives euthanasia and being placed in a freezer

Ben Winslow
fox13now.com
9:50 PM MDT, October 14, 2011
WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah

Andrea the cat ignores the toy meant to entertain her and instead stares at the FOX 13 microphone with detached interest. For a cat who has cheated death three times now, she's entitled to view a TV camera with bemusement.

"She's used up three of her nine lives," laughed Janita Coombs of the Community Animal Welfare Society. "And we hope she doesn't use up any more!"

The cat was euthanized twice at the animal shelter here on Thursday and it didn't take. The Community Animal Welfare Society (CAWS) said she was first brought to the shelter as a stray (Coombs believes she was someone's abandoned pet). After no one came to claim her, she was euthanized in a gas chamber alongside other cats.

But Andrea didn't die. A shelter worker was stunned to open the chamber and find her still there.

"He closed the chamber and he ran the gas again," Coombs said. "After running the gas a second time, he thought she was dead."

The animal was placed in a bag with the other carcasses and placed in a cooler where they are stored until they can be properly disposed of, Coombs said animal shelter workers told her. About 45 minutes later, the shelter worker took a dog that had just been euthanized to the freezer.

"They heard a meow," Coombs said of the stunned workers. "They heard a meow, again, louder."

The shelter workers tore open the bag and found Andrea looking at them.

fox13now.com/.../kstu-cat-survives-euthanasia-exclusive-cat-survives-euth...

1/3

West Valley City Animal Services

Exhibit 7 (Part 2 of 2)

1/9/12

EXCLUSIVE: Cat survives euthanasia and being placed in a freezer - KSTU

"She was wide eyed, terrified and still very much alive," Coombs said.

It was the West Valley City Animal Shelter manager who contacted CAWS after taking Andrea to a veterinarian, Coombs said. The cat appears to be healthy with no ill after effects of the euthanasia. Still, CAWS is hoping to call attention to Andrea's near death experience to shut down the gas method of euthanasia. Animal welfare groups have repeatedly blasted it as cruel.

West Valley City's Animal Shelter manager and other workers declined to comment to FOX 13 on Friday. City spokesman Aaron Crim said they follow the proper procedures and defended the method as being endorsed by the American Veterinary Association.

"We've never had an instance since we used this method. It's very quick, very humane," Crim said. "This is an anomaly."

Both CAWS and West Valley City agree that the method wouldn't be necessary if shelters weren't overrun with stray animals. They encouraged pet owners to take more responsibility by spaying and neutering their animals and keeping them for life.

As for Andrea the cat, she will be eligible for adoption through CAWS.org.

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fox13now.com/.../kato-cat-survives-euthanasia-exclusive-cat-survives-euth...

2/3

Exhibit 8

1/8/12 Cat survives gas chamber euthanasia-- twice - ABC4.com - Salt Lake City, ...

Cat survives gas chamber euthanasia-- twice

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Updated: 1/07 2:09 pm | Published: 1/03 6:45 pm
Reported by: Noah Bond



West Valley City animal shelter gas chamber (Jordan Whitney, ABC 4 News)

WEST VALLEY, Utah (ABC 4 News) - A group of citizens is speaking out tonight for a cat who survive the gas chamber in West Valley's animal shelter.

The cat's name is Andrea.

She was put into a small chamber and gassed with Carbon Monoxide.

She didn't die so she was gassed again.

Her body was placed in a plastic bag and into a 40 degree cooler.

A shelter employee opened up the cooler and found her inside meowing.

"As soon as they pulled her out of that bag she started immediately rubbing up against the shelter employee. She was just so grateful to have been saved," said Janita Coombs who took the cat into her home for a few months.

"She just loves life. She loves everyone she comes in contact with. She is very playful. She is just a cat you know who wants to live," said Janita Coombs.

Andrea is safe with a loving owner in Holladay now.

"To think what that cat went through. The absolute fear that she gone through not being gassed once but twice and then waking up inside a black plastic bag inside a freezer the absolute horror that had to be experienced by her," said Coombs.

Janita was outraged and became a woman on a mission.

She filed a request to find out if there are other animals in West Valley's shelter like Andrea.

"They've had to run the gas chamber more than one time to get the animals to die and this has happened on multiple occasions. Andrea is not an anomaly," said Coombs.

A spokesperson for the animal shelter named Layne Morris confirms Andrea did survive to gassing, but says no other cats survived euthanasia by gas chamber.

A group of concerned citizens is brought Andrea's story to West Valley's City Council at 6:30 p.m.

It wants the shelter to stop gassing animals and instead euthanize by injection.

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abc4.com/content/news/story/.../1pldApXD5KG3UlnRR6W-A.aspx

1/1

West Valley City Animal Services

Complete Memorandum from Layne Morris, Community Preservation Director

TO: Wayne T. Pyle, City Manager
From: Layne Morris, CPD Director
Subject: Chamber concerns response
Date: January 12, 2012

On January 10, 2012, during the City Council Public Comment Period, Janita Coombs read from a prepared statement. Her presentation was based on various documents, or "Exhibits," some of which she obtained as a result of my response to her GRAMA request. At the conclusion of her presentation to Council, she presented to Council the written version of her presentation, which included the exhibits.

I have reviewed the exhibits, and present here my response:

Exhibit 1. The shelter opened in October 2009. This was one of the very early uses of the chamber (Feb 25, 2010). The two feral cats that did not expire were at least incapacitated (probably unconscious) to the point that they were unable to respond as a typical feral cat would; with a high level of aggressive behavior. The employee makes no mention of any animal suffering in any way. She simply states that she will discuss the situation with her supervisor further on Monday, when she returns to work.

Exhibit 2. These notes (March 1, 2010) are taken in staff meeting on the Monday mentioned in Exhibit 1. It is the response to the situation outlined in Exhibit 1. As a result, the contractor came out and re-calibrated the machine, resolving the issue.

Exhibit 3. In staff meeting on July 7, 2011, over one year later with no issues or incidents, an employee stated that she could not get the chamber to function at all. As a result of her comment, supervisors instructed all employees not to use the chamber without a supervisor present. Subsequently, always with supervisors present, the chamber worked perfectly. Supervisors concluded that the problem was employee training on chamber function, which they had resolved with training. This might actually be the first indication of the problem outlined in Exhibit 4.

Exhibit 4. This memo outlines various times over several weeks where the chamber had "zero effect." The manufacturer was consulted, and after listening to a description of the problem, quickly diagnosed the problem: employees had not completely shut the door. When the chamber computer runs through the function and safety checks prior to starting, an open door will cause the system to shut down without actually starting the operating cycle; thus the "zero effect." The chamber did not malfunction, the employees simply failed to complete all the steps necessary to enable the chamber to function at all. Employees were instructed on how to secure the door fully.

Exhibit 5. This memo is written by the officer who conducted the Andrea euthanasia operation. Our conclusion is that there are two different possible scenarios, or a combination of both. The most likely scenario is that Andrea was able to absorb much more CO than the other cats involved. The other possibility is that when the carbon monoxide tank runs extremely low, it does not contain enough pressure to deliver the gas in large enough quantity to reliably cause death to an animal with an extremely high "tolerance" for carbon monoxide.

West Valley City Animal Services

Complete Memorandum from Layne Morris, Community Preservation Director (Continued)

We have addressed both issues with changes to policy. First, animals that fail to succumb to CO euthanasia will be injected. Second, the gas tank will be changed out when it reaches 100PSI.

Exhibit 6. There was no malfunction in the euthanasia of these two dogs. Dreamer and Diesel were Chesterfield pit bulls who escaped their enclosures and roamed the neighborhood until they found another dog also running free, which they killed. Our officers responded, seized the animals, and the owners quickly relinquished ownership. The officer who conducted the euthanasia remembers these two extremely vicious dogs very well, as well as the euthanasia. He states that although handling the dogs was extremely difficult due to their size and ferocity, each dog, once in the chamber, went down smoothly and quickly.

I hope this adequately addresses the concerns presented by Ms. Coombs and others. The CO chamber has proven to be a valuable asset in our efforts to provide humane euthanasia. Our employees regularly express appreciation for it and its ability to humanely assist them in the very difficult task of ending a life.

If I can answer any further questions regarding this difficult subject please let me know.

West Valley City Animal Services

Carbon Monoxide Chamber: Myth vs. Fact

Myth: The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) condemns use of CO chambers for euthanasia of animals.

Fact: AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia clearly state, “CO use for individual or mass euthanasia is acceptable for dogs, cats, and other small mammals.”...“CO induces loss of consciousness without pain and with minimal discernible discomfort. Hypoxemia induced by CO is insidious, so that the animal appears to be unaware. Death occurs rapidly if concentrations of 4 to 6% are used.”

Source: AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, June 2007

Myth: Lethal injection is less stressful for the animal.

Fact: Many aggressive dogs and/or feral cats are extremely stressed by human contact and by being physically restrained by squeeze cages, nets or handling gloves. The minimal human handling required in the chamber process is less stressful for these types of animals.

Source: West Valley City Animal Services observation

Myth: Lethal injections are emotionally easier for shelter employees to administer than using the CO chamber.

Fact: Some employees do not wish to be so intimately involved at the moment of an animal’s death and they prefer using the CO chamber. Other employees feel that, depending on the animal’s behavior, they have some emotional capacity to offer comfort at the time of death and prefer administering the lethal injection while holding the animal. West Valley City policy gives employees the choice of which method to use whenever possible. The preferred method is euthanization by injection.

Source: West Valley City Animal Services observation

Myth: West Valley City employees only use CO as a method of euthanasia.

Fact: Last year 49% of animals were euthanized using lethal injection.

Source: West Valley City Animal Services records

Myth: Injection is less expensive than CO.

Fact: Material costs for lethal injection are approximately \$1.00 /animal. The material cost for carbon monoxide is \$.50/animal. However, the lethal injection process requires additional employee time, training and third-party certification to administer.

Source: West Valley City Animal Services records

West Valley City Animal Services

West Valley City Animal Services performs euthanasia by lethal injection and by carbon monoxide, and follows the guidelines set forth by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Lethal Injection*

“Advantages—(1) A primary advantage of barbiturates is speed of action. This effect depends on the dose, concentration, route, and rate of the injection. (2) Barbiturates induce euthanasia smoothly, with minimal discomfort to the animal. (3) Barbiturates are less expensive than many other euthanasia agents.

Disadvantages—(1) Intravenous injection is necessary for best results and requires trained personnel. (2) Each animal must be restrained. (3) Current federal drug regulations require strict accounting for barbiturates and these must be used under the supervision of personnel registered with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (4) An aesthetically objectionable terminal gasp may occur in unconscious animals. (5) These drugs tend to persist in the carcass and may cause sedation or even death of animals that consume the body.

Recommendations—The advantages of using barbiturates for euthanasia in small animals far outweigh the disadvantages. Intravenous injection of a barbituric acid derivative is the preferred method for euthanasia of dogs, cats, other small animals, and horses. Intraperitoneal injection may be used in situations when an intravenous injection would be distressful or even dangerous. Intracardiac injection must only be used if the animal is heavily sedated, unconscious, or anesthetized.”

Carbon Monoxide*

“Advantages—(1) Carbon monoxide induces loss of consciousness without pain and with minimal discernible discomfort. (2) Hypoxemia induced by CO is insidious, so that the animal appears to be unaware. (3) Death occurs rapidly if concentrations of 4 to 6% are used.

Disadvantages—(1) Safeguards must be taken to prevent exposure of personnel. (2) Any electrical equipment exposed to CO (eg, lights and fans) must be explosion proof.

Recommendations—Carbon monoxide used for individual animal or mass euthanasia is acceptable for dogs, cats, and other small mammals, provided that commercially compressed CO is used and the following precautions are taken: (1) personnel using CO must be instructed thoroughly in its use and must understand its hazards and limitations; (2) the CO chamber must be of the highest quality construction and should allow for separation of individual animals; (3) the CO source and chamber must be located in a well-ventilated environment, preferably out of doors; (4) the chamber must be well lit and have view ports that allow personnel direct observation of animals; (5) the CO flow rate should be adequate to rapidly achieve a uniform CO concentration of at least 6% after animals are placed in the chamber, although some species (eg, neonatal pigs) are less likely to become agitated with a gradual rise in CO concentration; and (6) if the chamber is inside a room, CO monitors must be placed in the room to warn personnel of hazardous concentrations. It is essential that CO use be in compliance with state and federal occupational health and safety regulations.”

*Taken from AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, June 2007. The complete report is available here: http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf

West Valley City Animal Services

It has been reported that as many as 19 states ban the use of carbon monoxide as a method of euthanasia. The following list, obtained from the Humane Society of the United States, lists each states' stance on carbon monoxide euthanasia.

State Carbon Monoxide Euthanasia Allowance as of 12/3/2011

Source: Humane Society of the United States

State
Allowance
Citation
Comments

States Completely Banning CO Euthanasia

Alabama

NO
Ala. Code §34-29-131

Arizona

NO
A.R.S. § 11-1021
Allows sodium pentobarbital, nitrogen gas or T-61 only

California

NO
Penal Code, § 597u

Florida

NO
F.S.A. § 828.058

Louisiana

NO
LSA-R.S. 3:2465

Maine

NO
17 M.R.S.A. § 1042
Euthanasia only permitted by administration of a barbiturate overdose

Maryland

NO
Criminal Law, § 10-611

New Jersey

NO
N.J.S.A. 4:22-19

New York

NO
Ag & Markets § 374

Rhode Island

NO
Gen. Laws § 4-19-12

Tennessee

NO
§ 44-17-303

Vermont

NO
13 V.S.A. 371
Vt. Admin Code 2-4-305I through 2-4-305V
Shelters can use euthanasia solutions in accordance with the rules set by the secretary of agriculture, food and markets; agency rules allow only euthanasia by injection

Virginia

NO
Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6505

West Valley City Animal Services

States Partially Banning CO Euthanasia (Statutory Regulations)

Georgia

NO
Ga. Code Ann. § 4-11-5.1
Grandfathers CO chambers used before July 1, 1990

New Mexico

NO
N.M.S.A. § 77-1B-8
CO gas chambers prohibited for the euthanasia of cats and dogs

West Virginia

NO
W.Va. Code § 7-10-4; § 19-20-8
Grandfathers existing gas chambers if they are operated by a certified animal euthanasia technician

States Allowing CO Euthanasia

Colorado

AVMA (YES)¹
§ 35-80-102; § 35-80-106.2

Delaware

AVMA (YES)¹
3 Del. C. § 8004

Illinois

AVMA (YES)¹
510 ILCS 72/57; 510 ILCS 70/3.09
CO gas chamber euthanasia permitted by licensed veterinarian only

Kansas

AVMA (YES)¹
K.S.A. § 47-1718

Kentucky

AVMA (YES)¹
KRS § 258.095; § 258.119

Missouri

AVMA (YES)¹
V.A.M.S. § 578.005; § 578.007
“Humane killing” is exempt from the cruelty code – and is defined as methods of euthanasia approved by the AVMA

North Carolina

AVMA: YES¹
N.C.G.S.A. § 19A-24
Requires the Board of Agriculture to adopt rules regarding euthanasia; requires euthanasia to be only by methods approved by the AVMA, HSUS or American Humane Association. Specifies that if gas chambers are allowed by the Board, only commercially compressed CO shall be approved, and the chamber must allow for separation of the animals.

Oklahoma

YES
4 Okl.St.Ann. §§ 501, 503, 504
CO may not be used for puppies and kittens younger than 16 weeks

Pennsylvania

YES
3 P.S. § 328.5
CO may not be used for animals younger than 7 weeks; sets specific standards for CO chambers

South Carolina

YES
§ 47-3-420
CO may not be used for puppies and kittens younger than 16 weeks; sets specific standards for CO chambers

West Valley City Animal Services

States Allowing CO Euthanasia (Continued)

Texas

YES

Health & Safety Code, § 821.052

Dogs and cats may be euthanized by sodium pentobarbital or CO only; all other animals can be euthanized by any methods approved by AVMA.

¹ Allows euthanasia by any method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The AVMA has approved euthanasia by carbon monoxide chamber.

Wyoming

YES

W.S. § 6-3-203

CO chambers using gas engine are prohibited.

States Without Clear Laws on CO Euthanasia

Alaska

Not mentioned

A.S. § 08.02.050

Allows use of any drugs authorized by the department

Arkansas

Not mentioned

A.C.A. § 5-62-102

Euthanasia is exempt from the cruelty code, but it is unclear whether CO is included in the definition of “euthanasia.”

Connecticut

Not mentioned

C.G.S.A. § 29-108(g)

DC

Not mentioned

DC ST § 8-1805

Hawaii

Not mentioned

H.R.S. § 143-15

Idaho

Not mentioned

I.C. § 25-3511

Indiana

Not mentioned

IC 35-48-3-2

Iowa

Not mentioned

I.C.A. § 162.13

Specifies that the department will promulgate rules regarding euthanasia

Massachusetts

Not mentioned

M.G.L.A. 272 § 80E

Michigan

Not mentioned

M.C.L.A. 333.7333

Minnesota

Not mentioned

M.S.A. Chapter 346

Mississippi

Not mentioned

Montana

Not mentioned

MCA § 37-18-604

West Valley City Animal Services

States Without Clear Laws on CO Euthanasia (Continued)

Nebraska

Not mentioned
Neb. Rev. St. § 54-2504

Nevada

Not mentioned
NRS § 453.381

New Hampshire

Not mentioned
N.H. Rev. Stat. § 437:22
Euthanasia only permitted by methods approved by the NH department of agriculture, markets and food

North Dakota

Not mentioned
NDCC Ch. 36-21.1

Ohio

Not mentioned
R.C. § 4729.532
Euthanasia is permitted by lethal injection or by other substances approved by the state veterinary medical licensing board and the state board of pharmacy

Oregon

Not mentioned
O.R.S. § 686.040
Certified euthanasia technicians may inject sodium pentobarbital or other euthanasia substances approved by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

South Dakota

Not mentioned
SDCL § 40-1-20; § 40-1-21
Euthanasia exempt from the cruelty code

Utah

Not mentioned
U.C.A. § 58-17b-102
“Animal euthanasia agency” is an agency performing euthanasia by the use of prescription drugs

Washington

Not mentioned
RCWA 16.52.011; 69.41.080

Wisconsin

Not mentioned
W.S.A. § 173.23

West Valley City Animal Services

Utah Cities' and Counties' Carbon Monoxide Usage

City/County	Chamber Use
Bluffdale	Yes (Bluffdale takes animals to South Jordan)
Brigham City	No
Cottonwood Heights	No
Draper	Yes
Grantsville	No
Lindon	Yes
Murray	No
Nephi	No
Ogden	Yes (Ogden takes animals to Weber County)
Payson	No
Riverton	No
Salt Lake County	No
Sandy	Yes
South Jordan	Yes
South Salt Lake	Yes
Spanish Fork	Yes
Summit County	Yes
Tooele City	No (has chamber; chamber has been non-functional for some time)
Utah County North Shelter	Yes
Utah County South Shelter	Yes
Wasatch Valley	No (has chamber; chamber not used)
Weber County	Yes
West Jordan	No (has chamber; chamber not used)
West Valley City	Yes

Thirteen of twenty-four jurisdictions contacted use a carbon monoxide chamber.

West Valley City Animal Services

Adoption Efforts and Rescue Partnerships

The West Valley City Animal Services staff makes every effort to reunite lost pets with their owners. In the cases of unclaimed or unwanted animals, the staff works diligently to find loving homes capable of caring for a new pet.

West Valley City holds all animals for the state-mandated five-day period before determining whether or not the animal is adoptable. Adoptable animals are then held for a minimum of 30 days; in many cases animals are kept longer, depending upon space available at the shelter.

Animal Services Statistics

Cats	2009	2010	2011
Intake	2,131	2,328	2,605
Return to Owner	46	61	65
Adopted	177	533	714
Outside Assist*	335	285	367
Euthanized	1,268	1,449	1,459

Dogs	2009	2010	2011
Intake	2,090	2,053	2,384
Return to Owner	716	708	666
Adopted	677	821	887
Outside Assist*	206	220	511
Euthanized	351	404	320

*In addition to making pets available for adoption, West Valley City Animal Services has partnered with a number of rescue organizations to ensure that healthy animals find a home. In 2011, the following organizations rescued 501 dogs, 383 cats and 37 other species:

A New Beginning Rescue	Iggy's Palace Rescue	Ruff Patch Rescue
Adopt Me Society Rescue	Lost Paws Rescue	SL County Animal Services
Affenpinscher Rescue	Mountain Companion Rescue	Sheltie Rescue
American Brittany Rescue	No More Homeless Pets	South SL Animal Services
Animal Rescue Center	Northern California Animals	Springer Spaniel Rescue
Animal Shelter Wood River	Oquirrhberg Kennels	Tattle Tail Diabetic Alert Dog
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary	Orchard Animal Clinic	Tooele Animal Rescue
Birdsong Rescue	Pacific Coast K9 Rescue	Utah Animal Adoption
CAWS Rescue	Paws for Cause Rescue	Utah Animal Advocacy
Ching Farm Rescue	Perfect Paw Print Rescue	Utah Friends of Basset Rescue
Crest Care Rescue	Pet Samaritan	Waggin Tails Rescue
Ferrett Cubby Rescue	Reptile Rescue	West Jordan Animal Shelter
Friends of Animals Rescue	Resq Dogs	Western Border Collie Rescue
Humane Society	Retriever Rescue	Whispering Sage Rescue

West Valley City Animal Services

Euthanasia

Not all animals that arrive at the West Valley City Animal Shelter are adoptable. Animals that are vicious, ill, injured, or simply too old cannot be placed for adoption and are euthanized. Additionally, some animals are brought to the shelter by their owners, who request that they be euthanized.

Animals which are adoptable are kept as long as possible but unfortunately, as a municipal animal shelter, West Valley City Animal Services cannot keep animals indefinitely. While every effort is made to find safe, loving homes for all adoptable animals, many must be euthanized when space is needed.

In all euthanasia cases, animal shelter personnel choose the method of euthanasia they feel will provide the most peaceful and humane end for the animal while ensuring their own safety and that of the animal.

Euthanasia Statistics

Cats	2009	2010	2011
Age	4%	3%	3%
Behavior	34%	37%	51%
Illness	31%	26%	28%
Injury	5%	8%	3%
Owner Request	12%	13%	8%
Time/Space	14%	13%	7%

Dogs	2009	2010	2011
Age	30%	20%	30%
Behavior	21%	18%	22%
Illness	15%	16%	19%
Injury	7%	4%	6%
Owner Request	14%	22%	9%
Time/Space	13%	20%	12%